Scheme to carry forward unused local calls

3837. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a scheme to carry forward monthly unused local calls to help retired employees and poor customers;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of free calls clubbed with the rental is a part of the tariff regime. Regulation of tariff is a function of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 and TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. All the telecom service providers in the country are bound to follow the Telecom Tariff Orders as notified by TRAI from time to time.

Post Offices in Punjab

3838. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened till date in rural and border areas of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in Punjab under the future schemes having e-mail, internet and computer facilities;

(c) whether Government propose to provide the above facilities in all important post offices in rural areas within a fixed time-frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?